

Attorney Docket No. P63215US1
Application No. 09/774,641

Amendments to the claims:

Claims 1-4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (previously presented): A device for heat-decomposing a sample, containing organics, using a pretreatment method comprising the steps of setting up the sample in a heat-decomposing appliance comprising, in the absence of firing means:

- a) a heating section in the form of an axially aligned tube, open at only one of two opposing axial ends, having a length between said opposing axial ends of at least 10 cm and being molded of material that withstands (i) corrosive gases, (ii) oxidative corrosion, and (iii) heating to a temperature of at least 600°C; and
- b) an introducing section that cooperates with the open end of said tube to seal the open end and, thereby, close said heating tube for heat decomposition when containing organic components, said introducing section including means for introducing liquid through said introducing section into said heating tube when closed;

heating of said appliance being effected only by external means, said appliance containing no source of heat;

filling up the appliance with oxygen and closing the appliance, then heating the appliance to decompose the organics into testing components, followed by cooling the appliance, and thereafter

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introducing an absorbing liquid into said heat-decomposing appliance to absorb the testing components produced in said sample,

comprising an appliance-installing section to install said closed heat-decomposing appliance, a heating means to heat-decompose the sample in said closed heat-decomposing appliance and a moving means to reversibly move said closed heat-decomposing appliance installed at said appliance-installing section to said heating means.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A pretreatment method of a sample using the device of claim 5, comprising the steps of setting up the sample containing organics together with oxygen in the heat-decomposing appliance closing, and then heating said heat-decomposing appliance with the device to decompose the organics.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A device of claim 5 for heat-decomposing a sample and dissolving testing components produced, said device further comprising cooling means to cool the heat-decomposing appliance after heat-decomposition of the sample in said heat-decomposing appliance, injecting means to inject the absorbing liquid into said cooled heat-decomposing appliance, mixing means to stir and/or shake for making the absorbed liquid in said heat-decomposing appliance uniform, and moving means to reversibly move said heat-decomposing appliance from an appliance-installing section of any of said heating means, cooling means, injecting means or mixing means.

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Claim 8 (previously presented): A pretreatment method of a sample using the device of claim 7, comprising the steps of setting up the sample containing organics together with oxygen in the heat-decomposing appliance and closing, then heating said heat-decomposing appliance with said heating means to decompose the organics thereby producing the testing components, cooling said heat-decomposing appliance, injecting absorbing liquid into said heat-decomposing appliance to dissolve the testing components, and further stirring and/or shaking said heat-decomposing appliance to make said absorbed liquid in the heat-decomposing appliance uniform.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A device of claim 7 for analyzing testing components, further comprising analytical means to analyze the testing components in the absorbing liquid and moving means to sample the absorbing liquid inside the heat-decomposing appliance and moving the absorbing-liquid sample to said analytical means.

Claim 10 (previously presented): An analytic method using the device of claim 9, comprising the steps of setting up the sample containing organics together with oxygen in the heat-decomposing appliance and closing, then heating said heat-decomposing appliance with said heating means to decompose the organics, followed by cooling, injecting the absorbing liquid to dissolve the testing components, stirring and/or shaking said heat-decomposing appliance to make the absorbed liquid in the heat-decomposing appliance uniform, and then analyzing the testing components in absorbed liquid.

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Claim 11 (previously presented): A device of claim 9, further comprising a wash device containing:

- c) a needle pipe for injecting absorbing liquid into the heat-decomposing appliance,
- d) a motor buret,
- e) a switchable valve with actuator,
- f) a washing port to wash the needle pipe, and
- g) means for moving the needle pipe to pierce through packing or septum of the introducing section of the heat-decomposing appliance and, then, move the needle pipe to the washing port.

12 (previously presented): A device of claim 9, said mixing means comprising means to reciprocate the heat-decomposing appliance in the axial direction while axially rotating the heat-decomposing appliance, leaving horizontal.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A device of claim 9, said moving means comprising a cross type motor robot with a mechanical hand or a mechanical hand and cross type motor robot with axis for rotating it.

Claims 14-19 (canceled).